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CONFIDENTIAL.

(7965.)

Memorandum on Conversation between Lord Lansdowne and the German Ambassador respecting the Barotse Boundary.

THE German Ambassador, at an interview with the Marquess of Lansdowne on the 15th May, referred to the situation in Barotseland and on the Mozambique coast.

With regard to the former he said that:

The German Government had been informed that attempts were being made by the British South Africa Company to claim as tributaries of the Barotse Kingdom various tribes inhabiting districts far beyond the limits laid down for Barotseland under the *modus vivendi* of 1893.

The German Government had also heard that a Portuguese map had been published in which the limits of the Barotse Kingdom were shown as reaching to the 20th degree of longitude east of Greenwich, whereas the line of the *modus vivendi*, roughly speaking. did not go beyond the 23rd degree.

Under such an arrangement Great Britain would obtain a place called Okavango, the reversion of which should fall to Germany under the Secret Treaty between Germany and England of 1898.

The German Government had also learned from the German Minister at Lisbon that His Majesty's Government had proposed to establish a neutral zone extending from the line of the *modus vivendi* to the 22nd degree of longitude.

Count Metternich observed that under the Treaties between Great Britain and Portugal the limits of the Barotse Kingdom were described as following the course of the Zambezi and as not extending to the west of the 23rd degree of longitude. The German Government had, therefore, a right to infer that these limits represented more or less accurately the eastern boun-

dary of the Province of Angola, referred to in the Secret Agreement of 1898.

These British encroachments to the west of the 23rd degree had, therefore, created a good deal of uneasiness in the minds of the German Government.

Count Metternich urged that before any new boundary was laid down to the prejudice of German interests, His Majesty's Government ought in fairness to make the German Government aware of their intentions.

Count Metternich further observed that the German Government had heard that His Majesty's Government had arrived at a *modus vivendi* with Portugal with regard to Mozambique; also that a part of the arrangement was kept secret. So at least the German Minister at Lisbon had been led to suppose.

The definition of the limits of the Barotse Kingdom is in no way dependent upon the stipulations of the Anglo-German Convention of 1898.

That Convention says:—

"The portion of the Province of Angola, of which the Customs revenues shall be assigned to the British loan, is comprised within the following limits: the northern frontier shall run from the coast along the 8th parallel of south latitude to the 16th degree of longitude east of Greenwich, thence it shall descend that degree to the 9th parallel of latitude, and shall follow that parallel eastwards as far as the frontier of the Congo Free State. The southern frontier shall start from a point on the coast 5 English miles north of Egito, and shall run thence due east to the eastern frontier of the Province of Angola. The western frontier shall be the sea; the eastern frontier shall be the eastern limit of the Province of Angola."

What may be the eastern frontier of Angola therein referred to has to be ascertained by the Anglo-Portuguese Commission provided for by the Treaty of 1891 between Great Britain and Portugal, Article IV of which says:—

"That the western line of division separating the British from the Portuguese sphere of influence in Central Africa shall follow the centre of the channel of the Upper Zambezi starting from the Katima Rapids up to the point where it reaches the territory of the Barotse Kingdom. That territory shall remain within the British sphere; its limits to the westward, which will constitute the boundary between the British and Portuguese

spheres of influence, being decided by a Joint Anglo-Portuguese Commission."

There is, further, the Agreement of 1893, commonly referred to as the *modus vivendi* between Great Britain and Portugal relative to spheres of influence north of the Zambezi.

Article 5 of this Agreement runs as follows :—

"Pending the delimitation of a boundary-line as laid down in Article IV of the Treaty of the 11th June, 1891, the line formed by the curve of the Zambezi from the cataracts at Katima up to its confluence with the Cabompo shall be the provisional boundary between the respective spheres of influence in that region."

Article 10 further provides that—

". . . . . Nor in the Barotse territories shall the *modus vivendi* be held as prejudging in any way the ultimate territorial rights of Great Britain and Portugal."

It will thus be seen that it has long been agreed between Great Britain and Portugal that the Barotse Kingdom shall remain within the British sphere; that its boundaries shall be defined by a joint Anglo-Portuguese Commission, and that pending—and only pending—the result of that Commission the Zambezi shall be taken as its limits westwards.

Respecting the desire of the German Government to be informed of the intentions of His Majesty's Government before any new boundary is laid down to the prejudice of German interests, His Majesty's Government will take care faithfully to observe the provisions of their Treaty engagements with Germany, and will communicate to the German Government, in due course, the boundary definition of the Barotse Kingdom effected under the provisions of the Treaty of 1891.

With regard to the alleged attempts of the British South Africa Company to claim as tributaries of the Barotse Kingdom various tribes inhabiting districts far beyond the limits laid down for Barotseland, His Majesty's Government presume that this is an allusion to the fact reported to the High Commissioner for South Africa in January last, that raiding parties of natives from the Portuguese side of the provisional boundary-line of Barotseland had been destroying Lewanika's villages and cattle-posts, and that the Administration of Northern Rhodesia had, in consequence, been authorized

to take steps to restore order in the regions affected.

This, as explained to Count Metternich verbally by the Marquess of Lansdowne, was a perfectly natural proceeding, and similar facilities have frequently been given to the Portuguese at other points in South Africa where their territory adjoins that of Great Britain.

Nothing is known at the Foreign Office as to any such Portuguese map as that alluded to by Count Metternich; but the Portuguese are ignorant of the Secret Anglo-German Treaty, and are hardly likely to admit that anything belongs to Barotseland which is not conclusively proved to do so.

With reference to what Count Metternich said on the subject of Okavango, His Majesty's Government have to remark that no *place* of this name is to be found on any of the maps in the possession of the Foreign Office. There is indeed a *river* of this name, but it does not appear likely that the Barotse territories extend to the south or westward of it; they would at the most only touch it for a comparatively short distance.

With regard to the alleged proposal from His Majesty's Government for the establishment of a neutral zone extending from the line of the *modus vivendi* to the 22nd degree of longitude, this no doubt refers to a suggestion that was made to the Portuguese Government that a certain amount of territory beyond the *modus vivendi* line should be considered neutral as between His Majesty's Government and the Portuguese Government pending the final delimitation of the Barotse territories.

The Portuguese, however, declined to agree to the proposal, though they admitted that any act of theirs within the area in question could have only a provisional character.

With respect to the alleged *modus vivendi* regarding Mozambique, His Majesty's Government presume that the report alludes to the *modus vivendi* which has recently been concluded between the Governor-General of Mozambique and the High Commissioner for South Africa, but this in no way concerns any territorial arrangements.

(Signed) A. W. CLARKE.

Foreign Office,
May 28, 1902.

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